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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

NECESSITY OF ENDING THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL EMBARGO IMPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AGAINST CUBA

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INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

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Letter dated 15 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith the documents adopted at the eighth annual summit of the Rio Group, held at Rio de Janeiro on 9 and 10 September 1994, with participation by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela and Brazil.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 24, 33, 34, 55, 72, 91, 95, 98, 99, 101, 103 and 145 of the provisional agenda (A/49/150), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ronaldo Mota SARDENBERG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

[Original: English and Spanish]

Rio de Janeiro Declaration

1. As we meet at this eighth annual summit, we notice with great satisfaction that, this year, several democratic electoral processes are taking place in the Americas and the Caribbean. This fact provides clear evidence of the vitality of democracy in our region, in the consolidation and defence of which the Permanent Political Consultation and Concertation Mechanism has played a decisive role.

2. The stability of democratic institutions has made it possible for an increasingly close understanding among the countries of the region. The Rio Group has consolidated itself as an important forum for consultation and dialogue among the highest authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean. The closer relations we have established derive from the discussion of issues ranging from strictly political to economic affairs, from the strengthening of democracy to advances in the process of regional integration, from the expansion of trade to the preservation of our common cultural roots, that reinforce one another through a growing awareness of shared interests.

3. We recognize that the strengthening of democracy is closely related to a form of development which is responsive to the aspirations of our peoples for well-being and social and economic equity. We will spare no effort to preserve and promote democracy and to stimulate economic and social development in our region.

4. Institutional stability and the democratic system will be strengthened through dialogue, mutual cooperation and strict adherence to the principles enshrined in the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States, among which are non-interference in the internal affairs of each country and self-determination.

5. We reiterate the consensus reached at the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993, and reaffirm that all human rights are interdependent, indivisible and therefore should not be respected selectively.

6. We express our satisfaction over the appointment of a Latin American as the first United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in recognition of the work carried out in this field in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. We acknowledge with satisfaction the substantial increase in commercial and economic flows resulting from bilateral free trade agreements between several Latin American countries. The integration process now covers the entire region. MERCOSUR is consolidating itself with the adoption of a common external tariff, which comes into effect on 1 January 1995, which will establish a customs union, and at the same time aims to promote associative links with other Latin American countries, such as Bolivia and Chile. We take note of the renewed dynamism of the Andean Pact and of the signing of the Free Trade Agreement of the Group of

Three, which establishes new forms of economic and commercial cooperation among Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, and also of the agreements between these countries and those of Central America. We are aware of the strengthening of the Central American Integration System, the vitality of the Caribbean Community, and the recent signing of the Convention creating the Association of Caribbean States. We strongly welcome the work being carried out at ALADI, which provides a legal framework and a negotiating forum for expanding these multiple and positive initiatives working for integration. On the other hand, we believe that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) represents an important contribution to the liberalization of trade within the hemisphere.

8. All these initiatives allow an optimistic view concerning convergence in the near future of the different subregional schemes into a form of even wider economic cooperation in the hemisphere that strengthens the movement towards greater integration of the region into the world economy. The South American Free Trade Area (ALCSA), to be achieved through the negotiation of a network of free trade arrangements, will be a means to reaffirm and foster this process.

9. The liberalization and modernization of our economies constitute the necessary basis for the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean, and for a greater role of the region in the international economy. What is required for the development of all our countries is not only the increase in investment flows but also growth in public and private financing. The development of the appropriate transportation and communications infrastructure and optimal use of energy resources require major investments by the region. In this context, we emphasize the importance of undertaking actions that promote the development of border regions between our countries.

10. Achieving economic growth and social development is the greatest challenge facing Latin American and Caribbean countries. Measures aiming at the eradication of extreme poverty will continue to receive high priority by both the State and society.

11. In the knowledge that the full economic and social development of our peoples undoubtedly requires a sustained effort in the field of education, we commit ourselves to give priority to actions to eliminate illiteracy, progressively improve the quality of our peoples' education at all levels and give a larger segment of our population access to technical as well as higher education.

12. Latin American and Caribbean countries express their firm conviction that the World Summit on Social Development, to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, offers an opportunity for the international community to assure equitable treatment to social integration, particularly to the benefit of the most marginalized and least-favoured groups, and to relieve extreme poverty and increase productive employment.

13. The signing of the Uruguay Round agreements, under the sponsorship of GATT, and the creation of the World Trade Organization (WTO) mark the beginning of a new era in international trade. We call upon all countries to ratify these treaties as soon as possible and to refrain from protectionist policies and from

creating obstacles to the liberalization and growth of international trade, particularly in agricultural products.

14. The drive to modernize our economies requires the adoption of new technologies, which enhance productivity and favour the adoption of more efficient and environmentally acceptable productive processes. National and international controls on the transfer of dual-use technologies should not obstruct access to goods and advanced technologies employed for peaceful purposes in the cause of development.

15. As regards access to commercially available technology, we are not concerned about transfers on a concessional basis only. We share a common interest in taking an active part, both as producers and consumers, in the flow of knowledge and goods in the field of advanced technology.

16. Our progress in non-proliferation, by reason of which Latin America and the Caribbean are virtually the first populated region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, represents a further contribution of the region to international peace and security, as demonstrated by the progress made towards the full implementation of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Tlatelolco Treaty). In our region confidence-building can now be considered a reality. We have adopted measures to ensure transparency in intraregional relations and we spend comparatively less on arms and on the maintenance of armed forces than the other regions of the world.

17. Efforts at cooperation of the international community must be enhanced so as to defend our peoples from the threats posed by transnational organized crime and to intensify the fight against corruption, as well as to promote a more efficient administration of justice. Special emphasis should be placed on the fight against drug trafficking, the production and illegal consumption of drugs, the diversion of chemical precursors, the laundering of money and trafficking in arms. These are the main causes of increased violence and criminal activity and constitute a threat to the health and well-being of our peoples. To guarantee that these efforts contribute to governability and to the stability of the democratic system, the operative aspects of cooperation agreements must be improved. These agreements must equally make allowances for the specific national requirements of our countries and in this way helps to strengthen the domestic consensus in each of them.

18. We strongly condemn all terrorist attacks and, in particular, those recently perpetrated in our region and we call upon the international community to fight this scourge. In this context we reaffirm the importance of the extradition treaties ratified by our countries and of the actions undertaken by the legal authorities involved.

19. We express our decided support for the efforts of those countries undergoing processes of internal pacification and internal reconciliation and we call upon the international community to join us in expressing solidarity.

20. We attach great importance to the process of enlargement and reform of the United Nations Security Council with a view to correcting imbalances in its

present composition, improving its decision-making process and rendering its working procedures more transparent, so that it reflects in a more legitimate and representative manner all Member States of the Organization. We agree that Latin America and the Caribbean, by reason of its legal tradition and contribution to the cause of peace, should be contemplated in any enlargement of the Council.

21. We express our satisfaction with the Declaration of the Heads of States and Government of the Countries of the European Union, in Corfu, which reaffirmed the importance of relations with Latin America and the Caribbean and its regional groupings. We invite the European Union to join with us in adopting a common strategy in which new channels of dialogue and cooperation are defined so as to strengthen economic and trade relations and so establish an authentic association that benefits both regions.

22. We are aware of the importance of continuing our increasingly active dialogue with Japan and the People's Republic of China. We value dialogue with other countries or groups of countries such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Association of South East Asian Nations.

23. We are confident that the Summit of Democratically Elected Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere will raise the level of political dialogue and will result in concrete actions that strengthen the economic, commercial and cooperation links between the countries of the hemisphere. To this end, as a particularly significant interlocutor of the United States, the Rio Group reiterates its willingness to move ahead with consultations with that country.

24. We, heads of State and Government, assembled in Rio de Janeiro, would like to express our gratitude to President Itamar Franco for the hospitality shown to us by the Government and people of Brazil, as well as to extend our congratulations for the efficient organization and conduct of the eighth summit of the Permanent Mechanism of Political Consultation and Concertation.

ANNEX II

[Original: English and Spanish]

Declaration of the Rio Group on the Haitian Situation

1. The heads of State and Government, meeting at the Eighth Rio Group Summit, express their unswerving solidarity with the people of Haiti at this time of great suffering and renew their firm commitment to search for a lasting solution to the crisis in that country, in accordance with the principles of the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States.

2. They strongly condemn and repudiate the obstinate and stubborn attitude of those illegitimately holding power in Haiti and strongly call upon them to immediately hand over authority to the legitimately and democratically elected Government of Haiti, in accordance with the repeatedly expressed wish of the international community.

3. The heads of State and Government of the Rio Group are convinced that compliance with this demand will avoid more serious consequences and will allow, through the committed efforts of the hemisphere, for cooperation in order to bring about the restoration of democratic institutions in that sister nation.

4. The heads of State and Government of the Rio Group wish to see a peaceful solution to this crisis.

ANNEX III

[Original: English and Spanish]

Declaration of the Rio Group on Cuba

1. The heads of State and Government, meeting at the Eighth Summit of the Rio Group, having examined the present situation in the Republic of Cuba, express their concern about the risks of undesirable consequences of the Cuban crisis.

2. Having in mind the principles of non-intervention and self-determination, they consider that in order to avoid even greater suffering of the Cuban people it is essential that there be in Cuba, in accordance with the will of the people, a peaceful transition to a democratic and pluralistic system, which respects human rights and freedom of opinion.

3. The heads of State and Government believe that, at this critical juncture, they can and should launch a constructive dialogue with Cuba, in order to contribute to the internal process of democratization of the sister nation. They endeavour, in this way, to see Cuba closer to Latin American and Caribbean countries and fully reintegrated into the hemispheric fold.

4. In this context they reaffirm the need to lift the embargo against Cuba.

5. They express, on the other hand, the importance they accord to the decision of the Government of Cuba to invite the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Cuba in the near future, as well as that Government's decision to accede to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

6. They consider that the direct negotiations currently taking place between the United States of America and the Republic of Cuba are a positive development. The results that have been announced so far confirm the need to continue the dialogue.

ANNEX IV

[Original: English and Spanish]

Declaration of the Rio Group on coordination of the fight against drug trafficking

1. The heads of State and Government, meeting at the Eighth Summit of the Rio Group, reaffirm their firm political commitment to tackle and fight the scourge of drug trafficking, which continues to afflict the international community.

2. They express their growing concern over the continued spread of drug trafficking and the enormous danger it poses to social institutions, to the observance of human rights and to democratic stability in their countries.

3. Aware of the magnitude of the problem, they agree that it calls for concerted and more effective international action.

4. To this end the heads of State and Government agree to harmonize, as soon as possible, their national legislation on money laundering, swift extradition procedures, confiscation of property and cooperation in the field of law enforcement.

5. They further agree on the need for international agreements to ensure the necessary cooperation in these matters.

6. They also express the need to foster alternative forms of economic development by cooperation in opening up markets and increasing investment in coca growing areas.

7. They also express their wish to see included in the agenda of the Miami Summit the question of an inter-American convention to combat money laundering.